

House Republican Press Release

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Rep. Giegler: Budget Proposal Shortchanges Danbury Schools



Early today, State Representative Janice Giegler, R-Danbury, voted against a state budget package would increase spending by more than 12 percent and hikes state taxes by \$738 million during the next two years. The spending plans significantly shortchanges Danbury schools, said Rep. Giegler. The spending and tax package

was approved by the House of Representatives in a 100-50 vote and is expected to be voted on by the State Senate later today.

Rep. Giegler noted that Danbury only receives 78.7 percent of what is required under the state Education Cost Sharing (ECS) formula. The budget modifies the ECS formula to cap Danbury's allocation. Rather than receiving \$22,086,786 for Fiscal Year 05-06 as required under the ECS formula, the city's school system will instead receive \$17,373,813. Therefore, the budget shortchanges Danbury's schools by \$4,712,973, the most of any school system in the entire state, she said.

Rep. Giegler noted that the budget's education funding, similar to allocations enacted in recent years, is disproportionately slanted toward Connecticut's large cities. For example, while Bridgeport, Hartford and New Haven receive \$20 million, or 32 percent, of the total \$62 million increase in education funding, the student population of these cities represents only about 12 percent of all students.

"Once again, Danbury's ECS allocation represents a shortfall as a result of a mandated 'cap,' " said Rep. Giegler. "Our students are being seriously shortchanged by this budget. Yes, the package provides us an increase in funding but is a long way from what the Danbury Public Schools need to operate a system based on our changing demographics and the students we service."